

Kennedy Sees Symington on Defense Shifts

Will Get Report • Urging Speed-Up In Unification

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PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov. 19.
—President-elect Kennedy and Senator Symington begin a week end of talks today about proposals for reorganizing the Defense Department.

Recommendations prepared for the President-elect by a committee headed by Senator Symington are understood to call for greatly increased unification of the armed forces at top levels.

Senator Symington, Missouri Democrat who was one of those defeated by Senator Kennedy for the presidential nomination, was bringing the committee report with him to conquer it in detail with Senator Kennedy.

Senator Smathers, Democrat of Florida, also was a scheduled caller on Senator Kennedy today at his vacation headquarters here—his father's ocean-front home.

Eyes on Caribbean

Meanwhile, the President-elect presumably was giving close attention to developments in the tense Caribbean, where American warships are patrolling to prevent any Communist-directed invasion of Guatemala and Nicaragua from Cuba where the Castro regime charged the American action was a threat to world peace.

Senator Kennedy got a top-secret briefing on the dangerous situation in Central America yesterday from Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen Dulles, and Richard Bissell, a deputy CIA director.

Afterward, Senator Kennedy refused as "improper" any comment on the President's action putting the Navy on guard in the Caribbean at the request of Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Donald M. Wilson, Senator Kennedy's acting press secretary, said the President-elect "feels it is improper for him to discuss actions or policies of the United States Government at this time" because he has no authority for them until he assumes office January 20.



Senator Kennedy (right) bids farewell to Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who came to the President-elect's retreat in Palm Beach, Fla., yesterday to brief him on the world situation. AP Wirephoto.

Secretary Cut Made

One of the proposals reported under discussion by the Symington committee would strengthen the office of the Secretary of Defense by eliminating the Army, Navy and Air Force secretaries. The civilian service heads might be Undersecretaries of Defense.

The recommendations also are expected to call for greater use of unified commands, and moves toward closer integration of supply services.

Senator Symington, a former Secretary of the Air Force in the Truman administration, has been prominently mentioned as a possible Secretary of Defense in the new Kennedy administration. Although he has indicated he might prefer to remain in the Senate.

Senator Kennedy and Senator Symington planned to continue discussions on the defense reorganization proposals through most of today and tomorrow.

The President-elect has one more for France, scheduled here—for Monday morning with

Clark Clifford and Prof. Mich. Mr. Spark asked for Clark
ward Nougstadt on matters per-meeting to discuss the 10-year
taining to transition betweenplan that the United States
the Eisenhower and Kennedy proposed last December for
administrations. strengthening NATO, especially

Mr. Clifford, who was special counsel to President Truman, is Senator Kennedy's chief liaison man with the White House. He will be in Paris next month.

University has made a special study on transition problems for the President-elect.

Senator Kennedy plans to fly to Washington on Wednesday evening to spend Thanksgiving Day with his wife Jacqueline and daughter Caroline, who will be 3 years old the following Sunday. He expects to fly back here Thursday night or Friday morning for five or six more days of relaxation.

It was announced yesterday that Senator Kennedy will confer in Washington Wednesday evening with AFL-CIO President George Meany on unemployment problems.

The President-elect named Paul Hiltz, who headed a special committee for him on national security, a position to meet as his representative with Paul Spaak, NATO secretary general, in Washington.